

THE WEEKLY PORTAGE SENTINEL.

A. HART, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

THE UNION—IT MUST BE PRESERVED.

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Poetry.

A Weary Life it is to have no Work to do.

Ho! ye who at the mill to toll,
And strike the sounding blow,
Where from the burning iron's breast
The sparks fly to and fro,
While answering to the hammer's ring,
And fire's intense glow—
Of while ye feel 'tis hard to toll
And sweat the long day through,
Remember it is harder still
To have no work to do.

Ho! ye who till the stubborn soil,
Whose hands guide the plow,
Who bend beneath the summer sun,
With burning cheek and brow—
To deem the curse still clings to earth
From olden time till now—
But while ye feel 'tis hard to toll
And labor all day through,
Remember it is harder still
To have no work to do.

Ho! ye who plough the sea's blue folds—
Who ride the routine wave,
Beneath whose gallant vessel's keel
There lies a yawning grave,
Around whose back the wintry winds
Like furies rave—
Of while ye feel 'tis hard to toll
And labor long hours through,
Remember it is harder still
To have no work to do.

Ho! ye upon whose favored cheeks
The hectic glow is bright,
Whose mental toil wears out the day
And half the weary night,
Who labor for the souls of men,
Champions of truth and right—
Although ye feel your toll is hard,
Even with this glorious view,
Remember it is harder still
To have no work to do.

Ho! all who labor—all who strive—
Ye wield a lofty power,
Do with your might, do with your strength,
Fill every golden hour,
The glorious privilege to do
Is man's most noble power—
Of to your bright and yourselves,
To your own souls be true,
A weary, wretched life is theirs
Who have no work to do.

Miscellaneous.

Personal Appearance of Prominent men in the Convention.

The Chairman, John E. Ward, of Georgia, is a tall gentleman whose figure would be by an artist be called good. He is dressed in dark clothes, and his complexion is swarthy, his voice shrill and usually very distinct; but it gives out, cracks, at a high pitch. His manner is ordinarily very decisive, and he inclines to be rigid in the enforcement of the rules. Many knotty Parliamentary points are tied and tangled for his solution, and he occasionally defers much to members of Congress on the floor—but is a very efficient presiding officer. Harry Hibbard, of New Hampshire, seems to be his preliminary adviser. Hibbard has a seat near the stage, on the Speaker's left, and gives the votes of New Hampshire. He is tall and slender, wears glasses, and is decidedly intellectual in appearance, his forehead being high and fair, his cheeks lean and his lips, though not thin, tightly compressed. His voice is strong and full of emphasis. He has served eight years in the House of Representatives, and lost his seat in consequence of his vote for the Nebraska bill. He is a fast friend of Frank Pierce, and is the organ of his corner of the Hall.

Under the Gallery next the eastern aisle, (to the left of the Chairman,) is B. F. Butler, of Massachusetts, a short, nervous man with a bald head, and light sandy moustache. About the back of his head and above his ears are a few dry looking fox hairs, which seem to have been parched by the excessive heat of his brain. He is intense and inflammable as a Chinese cracker, and makes his points with a sharp ferocity of utterance almost startling. His voice is not strong, but keen and piercing, and yet occasionally husky with the vehemence of passion, which seems ready to blaze from him in dire commotion.

Close to this peculiar personage is B. F. Hallet, who reported the Platform. He is a short, heavy, rather peascod looking gentleman, whose general appearance suggests many good dinners and considerable intellectual vigor. He reads the Platform exceedingly well.

Near the Eastern aisle, and within a few seats of the front—on the Western side of the aisle—sits John C. Breckinridge, the impersonation of Democratic Kentucky chivalry, who won a high reputation in the last Congress, and declined to be a candidate for re-election. He is a tall and gracefully formed young man, with delicate features, and would be singularly handsome if his profile line was more prominent. Looking at him sideways, and his forehead, nose and chin are nearly in a straight line. But his eyes beam with intelligence, his nose is handsome in outline, and the habitual compression of his lips indicates a resolute will. On the whole there is a poetic glimmer about him. And that there is something of this in his character, the fact that he has purchased an island in Lake Superior for a summer home, would indicate. His manner in speaking is, proud, defiant and full of passion tempered by educated discretion.

In the Kentucky Delegation, near the front, is C. L. Wickliffe, Esq., who looks to perfection the old Kentucky aristocrat. The only thing democratic about him is the handkerchief with which he wipes the perspiration from his brow, and which appears to be a red and white cotton article. His dress is rich, and has the cut and fit characteristic of a fine old Kentucky gentleman. His countenance is stern, and his bearing

that which should be anticipated of a grave old gentleman of high character in the U. S. Senate or British House of Lords. It would not require any shrewdness of observation to discover that he is the autocrat of a plantation. He is large in frame and fleshy, his face much wrinkled, and his hair nearly all gone. His voice is good, but he is not calculated to be the leader in a Democratic Convention. The "noise and confusion" perplexes, annoys him. He is not accustomed to be interrupted and badgered on all sides.

Meach, of Virginia, a fine specimen of the old school Old Dominion gentleman, is sitting near the central aisle, in the eastern division of seats, and some twenty chairs from the Chairman. He is large, handsome, dressed richly, and is courtly in style, and says that which he has to say, well, but not with overwhelming power. He too, is oppressed with the devilish din around him, and there is a paucity of bright sandy hair on his round and placid head. Hon. McMullen, of Virginia, is a large man who speaks harshly, and with a singular flutter in the large volume of sound which he emits, and who does not often happen to hit the nail on the head in his remarks. There is evidently a large amount of self complacency buttoned away under his spacious yellow vest.

Childs of Connecticut, sitting in the southwest part of the Hall, is a charming old fellow. Good humor and good will toward men have doubtless glistened in his broad face for more than three score years and the wrinkles worn there, have been made by the flow of the milk of human kindness. But when, ever he rises to speak, it seems to be a matter of conjecture whether some full-fed, large hearted, old style Methodist preacher has not strayed down from Indianapolis, and got into the Convention instead of the Conference. There is a twang very like that to which we are accustomed from the Methodist pulpit, in his utterances; and on Tuesday he produced quite a sensation in the Convention, by calling on Delegates to "give their experience." His voice is full, and has a ponderous gurgle, and rolls about the Hall with triumphant approbation of itself and the sentiments it delivers, in every tone, and swells up like the mellow blast of a keel-botton's horn, of the kind of which Gen. W. O. Butler sung amid the storm of plaudits sure to come.

To the right of the Chairman, (near the aisle) well back may be seen that world-wide celebrity, Soule. He would probably weigh one hundred and eighty pounds, and is very slightly round shouldered, but his limbs are straight and handsome. His white vest curves comfortably outward, showing a moderate appreciation in the past of good things to eat, and that good digestion had waited on appetite. The expression of his face is quite French, but this is a Napoleonic sense. His lower lip is firm as iron, a Frenchman's vague polite smile, fingers and plays on his lip, and he has a beaming eye, and a forehead not huge at all, but rounded out and seamed, and paled with thought and the passion of many a war within the brain of which it is the index, and wear and tear of many a rude shock, amid the contentions of the world. As he turns his head, his eyes gleam with a flash that might well incite apprehensions in a foe. Therein shines the fire of the filibuster, of the man who shot the French Minister at the Court of Madrid, and incurred the bitter personal enmity of the French Emperor and Empress, which Paris letter writers say he still enjoys. His once black and heavy hair, now thin and slightly silvered, is brushed back straight and close to the scalp, revealing completely the fine outlines of his head. As yet he has not spoken a word in Convention.

On the extreme right of the Speaker, near one of the pillars of the gallery, Jno. Pettit, of Indiana, (who was labelled for time and eternity by Col. Benton) looms up at frequent intervals, short but thick, brief yet enormous—looking like a giant squeezed down in Gabriel Ray's magic man press. When he rises, he presents a broad patch of bald head, a queerly arranged, big fat face, a vast belly, and legs like those of an elephant. His voice seems to roll up from some boundless and thunderous region, and reverberate solemnly about the tumult like booming of a monstrous bull-frog amid a concert of frogs of far inferior wild privileges. Imagine a bull-frog played upon by a steam whistle, and you have it. And that which he says is to the point, and potent too. His thunder is not an empty sound, but roars with veritable significance.

One of the most active men in the Hall is Richardson, of Illinois, a tall, firmly built, coarse featured man, who stoops slightly, and with anxious, unflinching gaze regards every movement of the slightest importance. He is the right bower of Douglas, was the champion of the Nebraska Bill in the House, was re-elected, and was the regular Democratic candidate for Speaker of the House last winter. There is evidently a large amount of that quality which we call *bum-bum* in the man and he is working for Douglas with the most intense devotion. His face does not shine with the interior inspiration of victory. His smiles are only skin-deep, and there is something of sorrow, and weariness with unrequited toil, in every deep line that seems his face, out of which his great Roman nose extends like a promontory, defying sea and sky with all their storms. Briefly said, he looks like pictures of Black Hawk, only his costume is that of civilization. Great attention is paid to whatever he says, and when he goes into a fight, he generally fixes it his own way. His voice is ample, yet far from melodious, and its modulation shows the Sucker stump

speaker unmistakably, being a queer compound of the boyish and the back-woods style of utterance, with a gloss of that which is learnt beneath the dome of the House of Representatives in our national capitol.

A Beautiful Thought.

It was night, Jerusalem slept as quiet amid her hills as a child upon the breast of its mother. The noiseless sentinel stood like a statue at his post, and the philosopher's lamp burned dimly in the recess of his chamber.

But a dark night was now abroad upon the earth. A moral darkness involved the nations in its benighted shadows. Reason sheds faint glimmering over the mind of men, like the cold inefficient shining of a distant star. This immortality of man's spiritual nature was unknown, his relations to Heaven undiscovered, and his future destiny obscured in a cloud of mystery.

It was at this period, two forms of ethereal mold hovered over the land of God's people. They seemed like sister angels sent to earth on some embassy of love.

The one was of majestic stature, and in the well formed limbs, which her snowy drapery hardly concealed, in her erect bearing, steady eye, exhibited the highest degree of strength and confidence. Her right arm was in an expressive gesture upwards, where might appeared to have placed its dark pavilion, while on her left reposed her delicate companion in form and countenance the contrast of the other, for she was drooping like a flower when moistened by refreshing dew, and her bright but troubled eye scanned the air with ardent but varying glances.

Suddenly a light like the sun flashed out from the Heavens, and Faith and Hope hailed with exulting songs the ascending Star of Bethlehem. Years rolled away, and a stranger was seen in Jerusalem. He was a meek unassuming man, whose happiness seemed to consist in acts of benevolence to the human race. There were deep traces of sorrow on his countenance, though no one knew why he grieved for he lived in the practice of every virtue, and was loved by all the good and wise. By and by it was rumored that the stranger worked miracles! That the blind saw, the dumb spoke, and the dead leaped to life, at his touch! That when he commanded, the ocean moderated its chafing tide, and the very thunders articulated he is the Son of God. Envy assailed him with the charge of sorcery, and the voice of imploring judges condemned him to death. Slowly, and thickly guarded he ascended the hill of Calvary. A heavy cross bent him to the earth. But Faith leaned upon his arm and Hope dripping her pinions in his blood, mounted to the skies.

J. C. Fremont.

We call the attention of our candid Free Soil and anti-slavery friends to the record which we present below, and which constitutes the political history of this distinguished and recently discovered statesman. The Black Republican party, whose peculiar candidate Col. Fremont is, will find in it food for reflection. Honest minded men who act with the political organization that has brought about his nomination, have been led to believe that he was selected as their candidate, on account of the strong attachment to the principles which he professes; that in his distinguished efforts to aid the cause of human freedom they had discovered an able advocate of the anti-slavery sentiments which constitute the basis of their political principles.

Surely, he is worthy to be the chosen leader of such a band of sage patriots and disinterested philanthropists. His anti-slavery principles can no longer be questioned; they cannot fail to enlist for him the cordial support of the anti-slavery men of the North. Born in a slave State, reared among slaveholders, he has really no interests or feelings in common with those whose support the wire workers are aiming to secure.

Again we call the attention of anti-slavery men to this brief but satisfactory history of his distinguished services in their cause:

IN SENATE, Sept. 11, 1850.

Mr. Underwood of Kentucky, called up the bill for the relief of the American Colonization Society. The Slaves that were captured on board the barque *Pons* were turned over to the Colonization Society, by the authority of the United States, sent to Liberia, and there kept at the expense of the Society for one or two years. Most of them were children of twelve, fifteen and sixteen years of age. The Society thinks that the expense of feeding, clothing and educating these people which was thus devolved on them by the action of the Government, ought to be repaid them. It was certainly an expense incurred by the Society, through the action of the Government in throwing these young negroes upon them for maintenance, instead of taking them, as the Government was bound to do by law, and providing for them. That is the nature of the claim. They simply ask that so much should be paid them as the Society, from its own experience, pays in reference to its own emigrants. The claim was reported upon favorably two years ago. A similar report has again been made; and as the necessities of the Society require that they should have the money, I hope said Mr. Underwood, and there kept at the expense of the Society for one or two years. Most of them were children of twelve, fifteen and sixteen years of age. The Society thinks that the expense of feeding, clothing and educating these people which was thus devolved on them by the action of the Government, ought to be repaid them. It was certainly an expense incurred by the Society, through the action of the Government in throwing these young negroes upon them for maintenance, instead of taking them, as the Government was bound to do by law, and providing for them. That is the nature of the claim. They simply ask that so much should be paid them as the Society, from its own experience, pays in reference to its own emigrants. The claim was reported upon favorably two years ago. 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